

**Please amend the claims as follows:**

1 1. (currently amended) A method of providing continuing medical education credit to a first  
2 physician who has been engaged in a consultation with a second physician via an  
3 intermediary, the intermediary being connected by a telecommunications system to both  
4 the first and second physicians,  
5 the method comprising the steps performed in the intermediary of:  
6 receiving a comment made with regard to the consultation via the telecommunications  
7 system from the second physician; and  
8 providing the comment to a medical information specialist in the intermediary who is  
9 neither the first nor the second physician, the medical information specialist providing the  
10 continuing medical education credit by recording the continuing medical education credit ~~for the~~  
11 ~~first physician~~-based at least on the comment in a database accessible from the intermediary.

1 2. (previously presented) The method of providing continuing medical education credit set forth  
2 in claim 1 wherein the method further comprises the steps of:  
3 retrieving instructional material relevant to the comment and the consultation from the  
4 data base and  
5 providing the instructional material to the first physician via the telecommunications  
6 system,  
7 the step of retrieving instructional material being performed by the medical information  
8 specialist.

3. (original) The method of providing continuing medical education credit set forth in claim 2 wherein the method further comprises the steps of:

providing an examination based on at least the instructional material via the telecommunications system;

receiving answers for the examination from the first physician via the telecommunications system;

grading the received answers; and

if the first physician passes the examination, providing the continuing medical education credit.

4. (original) The method of providing continuing medical education credit set forth in claim 1 wherein the method further comprises the steps of:

providing an examination based on at least the comment to the first physician via the telecommunications system;

receiving answers for the examination from the first physician via the telecommunications system;

grading the received answers; and

if the first physician passes the examination, providing the continuing medical education credit.